

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

# MEMBERS' VOICE

The Weekly Strike Bulletin of UAWD

SIGN UP AT [UAWD.ORG/MEMBERS-VOICE](https://uawd.org/members-voice)



## WHOSE TURN TO STAND UP?

On Friday, September 22, at 12:00 noon Eastern, workers at all 38 parts distribution centers (PDCs) of GM and Stellantis joined the strike. UAW members and labor and community supporters have bolstered the lines. On Friday, September 29, two more plants, with 7000 more members combined, walked out: Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant (Local 551) and GM's Lansing Delta Assembly Plant (Local 602).

## WALK, DON'T BIKE

GM Arlington Assembly is one of the most profitable plants in the Big 3, and one of the biggest: over 5,000 workers across 250 acres. Tiffany Martin, a Local 276 member at the plant, says that a huge number have been turning down voluntary extra shifts. "Now even the electricians are refusing the overtime. And I noticed a few of them not using their bicycles to get to the breakdowns in the line. They have been walking without any rush."

That's a great, low-key example of a proud UAW tradition called "work-to-rule": where workers coordinate to do only their explicit duties by the book, and nothing more. Usually, nothing in the skilled trades job description explicitly requires rushing on three wheels.

*Labor Notes contributed "Torque Checkers Halt Overtime" and "Walk Don't Bike". Read more at [labornotes.org/uaw](https://labornotes.org/uaw).*

## SIGN THE PLEDGE TO REFUSE VOLUNTARY OVERTIME!

[UAWD.ORG/WORKTORULE](https://uawd.org/worktorule)

Sign on, learn more about how to safely refuse voluntary OT, and request free leaflets to get your coworkers on board.



PHOTO: FRANK RAO JR, LOCAL 12

## BACK IT UP

Across the facilities on strike, members are holding the line against scabs and supply trucks. Local 12 member Chris Falzone says that the picketers at Jeep have been "volunteering to run Gate 0 [the entrance for Mobis, which builds the Gladiator's engine]" because the "local hasn't assigned captains or people to the gate." Doing so, they have managed to "slow supplies being brought in to fix the 3000 or so Jeeps that are sitting needing to be repaired."

At a GM CCA hub on strike in Burton, Michigan, members and supporters of Local 651 parked vehicles and walked a slow picket line to block scabs from driving through the gate into the plant for many hours this week. As shown in a video by More Perfect Union and Labor Notes, supervisors and contractors hired to scab on the strike for as little as \$14 an hour were stuck parked in a long row of cars, unable to enter the plant.

Picketers have found that, without blocking vehicles from entering entirely, they can slow them down for 10-15 minutes, enough to cause long lines to form and inconvenience crossers.



## THE WORKERS ARE WITH US

There has been tremendous support for the strike from outside the auto industry. UAW-represented higher education and legal services workers in Regions 6, 9 and 9A have been forming “convoys” and “flying squadrons” to join picket lines at PDCs in California, New York and Massachusetts. The Michigan statewide AFL-CIO and American Federation of Teachers called on their members to join a UAW picket line on Wednesday, September 27 to make that day “Worker Wednesday.” Detroit City Council passed a resolution supporting the strike. These are just a few examples that reflect what polls are showing: The vast majority of people in the U.S. are on our side.



**SHARE A STORY FOR  
NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE:  
[UAWD.ORG/MEMBERS-VOICE](https://uawd.org/members-voice)**

## TORQUE CHECKERS HALT OVERTIME

Eric Truss, a Local 600 assembly worker at the Ford Rouge, shares how even a small number of members refusing overtime can have a big impact. "A torque inspector approached me. She said, 'I don't want to do OT, I want to support the picket line. I'm going to speak to others.'

"After she talked to them, they all refused. That shut down the whole line. Management knew that without those torque inspectors, they had to shut it down.

"That particular line feeds the assembly plant for the electric F-150. Without that one line running, it could put the EV plant at a critical low on its supply chain. Which is amazing because it's torque checkers on a small line of 12 people who could possibly shut down the whole EV plant."

## TAKE A BREAK: SOLIDARITY LUNCH

*Refusing to work through breaks and lunch? Make it a show of union power.*

1. Choose a day and meeting place for your lunch and spread the word in advance: "We're all taking lunch together on [day]. Meet at [place]." UAWD can help you prepare a flyer for your Solidarity Lunch, just email [uawdemocracy@gmail.com](mailto:uawdemocracy@gmail.com).
2. Prepare some questions to ask members, e.g.:
  - Is there anyone here who usually volunteers for overtime? What's motivating you to make a sacrifice during this contract fight?
  - Is refusing voluntary overtime having an effect on production? What are you seeing?
3. Wrap up with a chant: Get loud so management can hear! Here's one of our favorites: "Record profits? Record contracts!"
4. Here's the most important thing: Before you go back to work, ask everyone "Who can ask one coworker who worked through lunch today to join us next week?"

## UNITE ALL WORKERS FOR DEMOCRACY

UAWD is a caucus of UAW members building a rank-and-file movement for the long haul. We campaigned for "1 Member, 1 Vote" in the lead-up to the 2020 referendum and ran the "Members United" slate, including UAW President Shawn Fain, during the 2022 IEB elections. UAWD members have fought for and won reforms like day-one strike pay and an increase in strike pay. Our focus in 2023 is supporting Big 3 workers in the fight to win the strongest contracts possible. Learn more at [uawd.org](https://uawd.org).